

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, as amended.

At the outset, Applicant would like to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the telephone call conducted on July 12.

Claims 1–14 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Office Action alleges that “the specification fails to provide a description of the structure which locks and unlocks the second movable part of the stripper to allow for second movable part to be locked in the strip-out position and to be moved along with the rotating stacker wheel in the not-locked state” (Page 2). While Applicant disagrees with the merits of this rejection, in the interests of securing an expedited Notice of Allowance, new Figures 4–6 have been added, and the Specification has been amended to describe, more perspicuously, the conventional structure noted by the Office Action.¹ Applicant submits that no new matter has been added, as support for these amendments may found, generally, within Paragraph 0028 of the Specification, as well as within the knowledge of one skilled in the art at the time of the invention.

For example, the Specification discloses several different embodiments that “achieve the result that the second part 2b of the stripper 2 rotates along with the stacker wheel 1” (Paragraph 0028). In one embodiment, the Specification teaches that a “separate drive” may be provided, while in another embodiment, the Specification teaches that “the stripper is connected to the driving shaft of the stacker wheel via a not shown coupler and locked in its strip-out position by means of a release mechanism or is released via the release mechanism ... so that it synchronously rotates with the stacker wheel 1” (Paragraph 0028). With respect to the latter embodiment, the Specification further teaches that “instead of a mechanical release mechanism the coupling can have the design of a magnetic coupling adapted to be electrically actuated” (Paragraph 0028). New Figures 4–6, as well as the new paragraphs added to the Specification, describe these general concepts in greater detail.

¹ See, Office Action at Page 2, Paragraph 3 (“If such structure is conventional, examples of such structure should be given to permit one of ordinary skill in the art to understand how to make and use the release mechanism”).

Accordingly, the Specification and Figures, as amended, provide clear support for the pending claims under § 112, 1st paragraph, and Applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

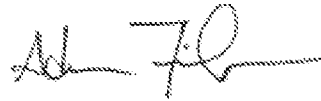
In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and should now be passed to issue.

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayments that may be required by this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,



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